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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 22 | Humidity 90% Heavy Thunderstorm Sensex 82,330 | Nifty 25,019 | Gold 92,329 | Silver 95,222 | Dollar 85.61 | Euro 95.27 | GBP 113.50

SIM JAM

Police probe 71 dealers for illegally distributing SIM cards, leaking subscriber data to cybercrime networks, violating licencing norms

PAGE 3

RAIN PAIN

Years of neglect and the inadequate size of railway vent in Sai Layout result in water accumulation in low-lying parts of neighbourhood after Sunday rain

PAGE 5

According to police data, robbery cases have come down by 73% as compared to last year and chain-snatching by 57%, however daytime thefts continue — and among these, temple donation boxes are major targets

OUT OF THE BOX

Temple hundi thefts seem to be a daily occurrence with 365 cases recorded in 2024

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Money donated through a 'hundi' in temples is typically regarded as a gift to the deity and is generally non-refundable. However, despite an overall decline in burglary cases, daytime temple robberies continue to happen daily in the city, with thieves showing no regard to the non-refundable policy.

According to police data, there is a drop in certain crimes, with robbery cases down by 73% and chain snatching incidents reduced by 57% as compared to last year. The city has also seen a 41% decline in nighttime burglaries. However, concerns remain over a growing trend in daytime burglaries, which have seen an uptick over the past two years.

Temple thefts, in particular, continue to be a daily issue across the state. In 2024 alone, 365 temple burglaries were recorded—342 at night and 23 during the day. In comparison, 2023 saw 409 such cases, including 385 nighttime and 24 daytime break-ins. Currently, though temple theft cases have reduced.

DCP Central Division Shekhar H Tekkannavar explained that there haven't been any such temple theft cases in the Central Division recently. However, based on his experience, he noted that temple thefts are more common in urban areas where devotees tend to donate currency notes, whereas in rural areas, people usually offer coins, making them less attractive to thieves.

Senior police officials further elaborated that the accused

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Counting of donation from a temple hundi in progress (file photo)

"Temple thefts are more common in urban areas where devotees tend to donate currency notes, whereas in rural areas, people usually offer coins, making them less attractive to thieves

—Shekhar H Tekkannavar, DCP Central Division

Sign on the dotted line awaited

Wildlife forensic lab will be operational only in a few months as MoU with institute is still taking shape

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Karnataka's first wildlife forensic science laboratory in Bengaluru will take a few more months to become operational, the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has informed.

According to KFD officials, an MoU with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to obtain representative samples for the laboratory in Madiwala is still in progress.

"The laboratory has all the equipment needed to run forensic analysis, except representative samples. The MoU with WII in this regard is yet to take shape. We have written to the institute, and the process is expected to be completed over the next two to three months. Although KFD has collected some samples, they are not sufficient," said Subhash K Malkhede, Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka.

Training of six field staff in wildlife forensic cases has already been completed. Out of the six officials, two were sent to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, and four took training in the Wildlife Forensic Science Centre in Tamil Nadu.

Notably, the Rs 2.7-crore project was last expected to be ready by April. The project was approved a couple of years ago and is being set up to improve the conviction rate in wildlife crime cases. Once operational, the facility, equipped with modern techniques and equipment, will provide analysis and reports to aid investigations, including DNA analysis and morphological analysis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Pet gala

Pet Fed is presenting its Express Edition Pet Festival. Pets are in for a treat as the event offers an exclusive play area, a pet fashion show, a pet talent show, pet shopping stalls, and food and beverages for your beloved companions. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: May 25, 11 am**

02 Wizarding pop-up

MINISO India is organising the second chapter of the exclusive Harry Potter pop-up studio, bringing the spellbinding charm of the wizarding world to life with over 300 officially licensed Harry Potter products available exclusively. **Where: Nexus Mall, Koramangala; When: May 1 to June 3**

03 Musical magic

Phoenix Marketcity is set to host Salim-Sulaiman, the dynamic duo who have contributed masterpieces to the Indian music landscape, live in concert. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: May 24, 7 pm**

04 Stage stories

Ranga Shankara is organising Tila, a puppet play for children above 6 years of age, about Tila, a trickster who always believes he is cleverer than others. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: June 8, 3.30 pm and 6 pm**

05 Stand-up saga

After the success of 'Bas Kar Bassi', Anubhav Bassi is coming back to perform live, bringing a whole new set of funny stories and jokes to entertain the audience. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: May 30, 7.30 pm**

State orders review of child marriage prevention

Child rights activists have welcomed government's directive stating that regular review is essential to ensure consistent progress and accountability

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Inset: The circular issued on May 14 by Uma Mahadevan, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner

The state government, alarmed by increasing child marriages, has issued a circular advising Deputy Commissioners, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers, and Superintendents of Police to review the measures taken by Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) at all districts during the quarterly review meetings.

Uma Mahadevan, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, issued the circular on May 14 advising the authorities concerned to review the measures taken to prevent child marriages across the state.

"You have to review the progress of the coordination committees at district level to prevent child marriages," the circular read. Child rights activists have welcomed the government's directive to assess the effectiveness of district-level coordination committees. They urged authorities to mandate Deputy Commissioners, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers, and Superintendents of Police to conduct quarterly reviews to ensure consistent progress and accountability.

Terming the government's quarterly review of CMPOs as a positive step towards ensuring effective implementation of child protection measures, Nagasimha G Rao, an advocate for child rights, said that the initiative aligns with Article 25 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which emphasises children's right to periodic review of their care and protection. "To further strengthen their effectiveness, the government must provide comprehensive training to CMPOs on key legislations such as the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Regular reviews and feedback, coupled with capacity-building training, can enhance the performance of CMPOs and contribute to better outcomes for children," Rao said.

> **"The higher authorities should not forget about the menace of child marriages by merely issuing a circular** – A child rights activist

Welcoming the government circular emphasising the review of the progress of coordination committees at district level, Dr Thippeswamy KT, a member of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said that the need of the hour is to ensure that all the authorities concerned attend the coordination committee meetings on child rights and discuss measures to prevent child marriages.

A child rights activist pleading anonymity, questioned the outcome of the coordination committee meetings held once in three months. The activist highlighted that as of now, the Deputy Commissioners are members of many committees at the district level. The activist said that all issues of child rights cannot be discussed during the review meetings at the district level as such meetings are attended by many officers from different departments. "I came across some such meetings that concluded within a few minutes. There are a few Deputy Commissioners in the state who allocate two to three hours to discuss child rights," the activist said, expressing that they want all Deputy Commissioners to allocate sufficient time to discuss child rights and measures for preventing child marriages. "The higher authorities should not forget about the menace of child marriages by merely issuing a circular," the child rights activist said.

Imported chocolates under scrutiny for undisclosed alcohol content

In response to concerns over the presence of alcohol content in imported chocolates, the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched a statewide drive in Karnataka to collect and test samples of such products. The move comes following directives from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under its National Annual Surveillance Plan.

The department is currently focusing on scrutinising product labels, particularly targeting chocolates that may contain alcohol without explicitly disclosing it on the packaging. Authorities are especially concerned about the sale of such products without clear warnings, posing a potential risk to consumers, especially children. FDA officials confirmed that so far, 23 samples have been collected for testing. These samples will be examined for compliance with quality, safety, labelling, and advertisement regulations. Any violations detected will lead to enforcement action. A senior FDA officer stated that several of the collected products did not mention the presence of alcohol on their labels, nor did they provide any specific warnings to consumers. The data from the sampling will be uploaded to the Central Food Safety Compliance System for further action. **— BMB**

BWSSB collects over ₹1 lakh in 4 days

In just four days, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has supplied over 1 million litres of water under its new 'Mobile Cauvery' scheme, collecting more than Rs 1 lakh in revenue. The initiative aims to curb the exploitative pricing of private water tankers and provide affordable, clean Cauvery water to citizens during peak summer months.

Launched last week, the scheme is receiving an overwhelming response from the public. Through the Mobile Cauvery mobile app and website, citizens can book water tankers at fixed government rates, track deliveries, and receive water within 24 hours, using an OTP-protected system.

A BWSSB official said that so far, over 2,000 users have downloaded the app, and 116 water loads have been delivered. "The BWSSB supplies BIS-standard treated Cauvery water, and customers are welcome to test water quality at any time," the official said.

Currently, 250 tankers, including 60 BWSSB-owned and others deployed from 55 Cauvery Connect Centers, are in service across the city. Owing to the rise in demand, BWSSB is now planning to add 250 more tankers soon. BWSSB Chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar said, "Areas facing acute water shortages are being prioritised, and within the next 10 days, the scheme will be extended to cover the entire city." **— BMB**

Former Lokayukta highlights humanity in the art of giving

Former Karnataka Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde has emphasised the importance of having empathy and sympathy with people in need, in order to have peace, harmony, and integration. Justice Santosh Hegde made the statement while speaking at the launch of a book by Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences founder Achyuta Samanta at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday.

Justice Hegde highlighted that fostering good relations amongst citizens is essential for maintaining peace in society. He also stressed that humanity is at the heart of the 'Art of Giving'. "However, when it comes to corruption, the art of giving and the art of taking are not good. There is a death penalty in China for those indulged in corruption, but corruption is more rampant in China than India. It takes more than 45 years to pronounce judgement in a corruption case in India," he said. **— BMB**

Inside SIM scam: Agents fuel cybercrime

Police investigate 71 SIM dealers for illegally distributing SIM cards and leaking subscriber data to cybercrime networks in and around city, violating licencing norms

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Bengaluru police have launched a full-scale investigation into the role of mobile SIM card distributors allegedly linked to cybercrime syndicates operating in and around the city. The probe, led by the Central Crime Branch (CCB), follows a formal complaint from a senior Department of Telecommunications (DoT) official, who also serves as Director (Compliance) for Karnataka's Licensed Service Area (LSA).

Acting on the complaint, the Commissioner of Police (Crime) issued a directive authorising an investigation into the potential misuse of telecom resources by Points of Sale (PoS) licensed under DoT norms. Early findings from the CCB have revealed that 71 PoS units across Bengaluru district were involved in leaking subscriber data and illegally distributing SIM cards to cybercriminal networks, constituting a serious criminal breach of trust.

These outlets, operating under various Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), were found to have violated licensing terms by selling 25 or more SIM cards in the name of a single individual, far exceeding the legal cap of nine SIMs per person. A total of 71 FIRs have been filed so far against SIM dealers across Bengaluru, its rural areas, Chikkaballapur, and Ramanagara.

The investigation draws heavily on intelligence from the Department of Telecommunications' Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP), a secure, real-time data exchange portal that facilitates collaboration among over 520 stakeholders, including state police, central security agencies, financial institutions, and social media platforms. DIP has been instrumental in identifying the SIMs linked to cybercrime and tracking their misuse.

Sources say the CCB suspects these PoS units not only issued SIMs illegally but may have accessed and shared sensitive customer information via the DIP network. The Karnataka division of the DoT uncovered these violations during an internal audit.

Investigators are now probing the duration of the racket, the nature of cybercrimes committed using these SIMs, and whether there was deliberate price manipulation or deeper collusion between telecom agents and fraud networks.

A victim of one such scam shared his ordeal, "My daughter was only considering taking an insurance policy before she passed away. We never went through with it, but even two months after reporting the fraud, I still keep getting spam calls asking for payment.

I've already reported five or six such numbers through the Sanchar Saathi portal, but the calls haven't stopped."

In response, authorities have assured that legal measures will be pursued and have reiterated the enforcement of mandatory biometric verification protocols to curb fraudulent SIM activations moving forward.

HIGH COURT

Court for equitable subsidies

The Karnataka High Court has instructed the state government and electricity supply companies (Escoms) to modify their agricultural power subsidy policies to ensure equitable treatment between farmer societies and individual farmers.

The court mandated that appropriate guidelines must be established and notified within six months to provide power tariff subsidies to registered farmer societies, whilst maintaining equality, supporting cooperative farming and sustainable agricultural development.

The directive came from Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum whilst partially accepting the petition by Shrishail Irappa Kempwad, secretary of Sri Shrimant (Tatya) Patil Neeru Balakedrara Sangha, and Thammanna Annappa Pujari, secretary, Ravalanath Yeta Neeru Balakedarara Sangha from Athani taluk in Belagavi district.

The court suggested that whilst revising the policy, authorities could implement subsidies for societies based on per capita consumption, landholding, or aggregate power consumption per society member.

"The denial of power subsidy to registered farmer societies, solely on the ground that their collective consumption exceeds a prescribed limit, is hereby declared unconstitutional and arbitrary," the court said.

"The practice of differentiating between individual farmers and societies, based purely on collective consumption, is found to be inconsistent with the constitutional mandate of equality before the law under Article 14 of the Constitution of India," the court observed.

"Denial of subsidies to societies defies logic as the government, which encourages cooperative farming and resource-sharing among small and marginal farmers, cannot deny subsidy to these societies solely because their collective power consumption exceeds a prescribed limit, even when the per capita consumption of each farmer may be lower than the prescribed threshold for individual subsidy eligibility".

The court stated that refusing subsidies to farmers' societies penalises collective organisation and undermines cooperative farming. **BMB**

No ticket, but it was accident

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that the absence of a journey ticket on a deceased person's body cannot be grounds for denying that the death occurred due to a railway accident.

In a recent ruling, Justice Hanchate Sanjeevkumar awarded Rs 8 lakh compensation, including Rs 4 lakh statutory compensation and interest, to the family of Aminasab Mulla.

On April 6, 2015, Aminasab had purchased a ticket from Vijayapura railway station to travel to Limbala, Maharashtra, but fell from a moving train and died instantly.

The railways claims tribunal, Bengaluru, had initially rejected the family's claim petition on April 13, 2017, citing lack of railway police notification and absence of a journey ticket to prove passenger status. The claimants contested these grounds, whilst railway authorities supported the tribunal's verdict.

Upon reviewing the evidence, Justice Sanjeevkumar noted that the loco pilot had reported via walkie-talkie on April 6, 2015, about a male body discovered on the tracks between Vijayapura and Minchinahal, with an FIR registered subsequently.

The autopsy report indicated "haemorrhagic shock as a result of multiple injuries to vital organs and auto amputation" as the cause of death. The judge concluded that both documentary and claimant evidence confirmed the railway accident fatality.

"When the death occurred, and immediately the body was shifted to the hospital to conduct a post-mortem, during said time, the ticket might have been lost.

Therefore, the tribunal isn't correct in dismissing the claim petition on the reason that the railway ticket wasn't found on the dead body. Quite naturally, the claimants hadn't accompanied the deceased. Therefore, they couldn't produce the journey ticket," the judge stated. **BMB**

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100% excise licence fee hike jolts liquor industry

With imposition of hike coming when liquor sales are already slowing due to increased taxes, industry representatives deem move as major financial blow

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In a major blow to the liquor industry, the Karnataka government has sharply increased the excise licence renewal fees by up to 100%, aiming to boost revenue collection to fund its flagship guarantee schemes. The revised rates will come into effect from July 1, coinciding with the start of the excise year in the state.

Karnataka's Excise Department, which is the second-largest contributor to the state's revenue, expects to generate an additional Rs 500 to Rs 600 crore annually through this hike. The Finance Department has issued a formal order notifying the fee revision across various licence categories, both in urban and rural areas. For instance, a licence that previously cost Rs 2 lakh will now require Rs 4 lakh, and those at Rs 4 lakh have been revised to Rs 8 lakh, marking a significant increase across the board.

Karnataka's Excise Department expects to generate an additional revenue of Rs 500 to Rs 600 crore annually through this hike

First hike in nine years

This is the first major fee hike since 2016, although the government had previously floated the idea several times. It was repeatedly deferred due to strong opposition from liquor associations. However, the current fiscal push has overridden such concerns, triggering anxiety among liquor vendors and bar owners.

Sources said that the revised excise licence fee structure has seen steep hikes across all major categories. For instance, the CL-9 licence for bars and restaurants has increased from Rs 8.62 lakh to Rs 17.25 lakh, marking a hike of Rs 8.63 lakh. Similarly, the CL-7 boarding licence now costs Rs 19.55 lakh, up from Rs 9.75 lakh, reflecting a rise of Rs 9.8 lakh. The CL-5 retail outlet licence fee has doubled from Rs 11.5 lakh to Rs 23 lakh. This hike impacts all 13,567 excise licences currently issued in Karnataka, which includes 3,999 liquor retail outlets, 3,642 CL-9 bar and restaurant licences, 3,030 CL-7 boarding licences, and 303 CL-4 club licences. In addition to these, distilleries, breweries, and godowns have also seen licence fee hikes exceeding 100%. The brewery licence fee has gone up from Rs 27 lakh to Rs 34 lakh, while the fee for godowns has doubled from Rs 45 lakh to Rs 90 lakh, significantly increasing the financial burden on the liquor industry across the state.

> "The government must immediately withdraw this exorbitant increase in licence renewal fees
> – PC Rao, President, Bangalore Hotel Association

In urban municipal zones with populations over 20 lakh, the licence renewal fee has increased to Rs 12 lakh, and in other municipal areas, it has gone up to Rs 10 lakh. Smaller towns and panchayat areas will now pay Rs 8 lakh.

Industry reacts

The hike comes at a time when liquor sales are already slowing due to increased taxes on beer and spirits earlier this year. Industry representatives have expressed alarm, calling the move a "major financial blow." "The government must immediately withdraw this exorbitant increase in licence renewal fees," demanded PC Rao, President of the Bangalore Hotel Association. As Karnataka targets Rs 40,000 crore in excise revenue for 2025, up from Rs 36,500 crore last year, the burden on the liquor industry is set to intensify.

Uptick in daytime thefts in city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

often follow a specific pattern before committing the theft. They typically visit the temple once as a devotee to observe the placement of CCTV cameras and the location of the hundi (donation box). They may return once in the evening and again during odd hours to study the footfall and security patterns, choosing a time when the temple is least crowded to execute the theft. Tekkannavar added that such burglaries usually involve stealing money and gold ornaments from donation boxes. These boxes are frequently opened for collection, so they are often secured with small locks that are easy to break.

In a recent case, a seemingly minor theft turned into a major breakthrough after two juveniles were detained for stealing a donation box from the Venkataramanaswamy Temple in Kaniyara Colony, Chamarajpet. The theft occurred on February 12, when the minors allegedly took off with an unsecured offering box placed outside the temple for devotees. Temple manager Srinivas discovered it missing at 7 am and filed a police complaint, estimating the loss at ₹2,000.

Chamarajpet police swiftly acted, tracing and detaining the suspects. What began as a temple theft investigation soon unraveled a string of other crimes. During the probe, police recovered not only the stolen box but also five two-wheelers valued at ₹2.39 lakh and an autorickshaw worth ₹90,000. The minors were found to be involved in at least eight other theft cases across the city. They were produced before the Juvenile Justice Board for further legal action.

In another daylight theft, a car driver who fled with a bag containing ₹1.51 crore donated to the hundi after spending Rs 1 lakh for his family. On May 5, a 46-year-old chartered accountant from Kodandaramapuram handed over a bag containing large sums of money meant for clients' tax payments to his longtime driver, Rajesh BN, only to have him vanish with the cash.

Rajesh, who had been with the family for over 10 years, was instructed to keep the money safely in the car for deposit. Instead, he hid the money in his two-wheeler and disappeared. The CA filed a complaint at Vyalikaval Police Station the next day, launching a frantic hunt.

Police tracked Rajesh down on May 9. During questioning, he confessed and led officers to his hideout near the TTD temple, where authorities recovered ₹1.48 crore in cash and the two-wheeler used in the heist. Interestingly, Rajesh had already spent ₹1 lakh on personal purchases and donated several thousand rupees to a temple fund that police say cannot be reclaimed.

RCB announces ticket refunds

Royal Challengers Bengaluru have announced ticket refunds for their match against Kolkata Knight Riders at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, which was abandoned without a ball being bowled, due to persistent rain on Saturday.

"As the game between RCB and KKR on 17th May 2025 was abandoned due to inclement weather, all valid ticket holders are eligible for a full refund, the franchise said in a statement.

"Digital ticket holders will be issued a refund within 10 working days to their original account used to book the tickets. In case you do not receive refund by May 31, kindly send an email to refund@ticketgenie.in with booking details to escalate the matter. "Physical ticket holders are required to surrender their original ticket to the respective official source from where they purchased the tickets, in order to claim refund. Refunds are not applicable for complimentary tickets," it added.

After Saturday's washout, both RCB and KKR were awarded one point each. RCB moved atop in the points table with 17 points from 12 games and closer to a confirmed berth in the playoffs while KKR with 12 points from 13 games were knocked out of the top four contention. RCB will now host Sunrisers Hyderabad on May 23 before travelling to Lucknow to face Lucknow Super Giants in their final league fixture on May 27. — IANS

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Garbage pile-up

Residency Road

Debris and garbage have been lying unattended for months on the footpath near outside Devatha Plaza. BBMP has failed to clear the mess despite repeated complaints.

Lake neglect

Kithiganur Lake

Despite Rs 11 crore sanctioned years ago for rejuvenation, Kithiganur Lake on TC Palya Road remains uncleared and neglected.

Unfinished repair

Rajajinagar

A damaged stretch in 2nd Stage Rajajinagar (near Spectrum Diagnostics) has caused several two-wheeler riders to lose balance and fall. Though a faulty water plug was replaced 4 to 5 months ago, the dug-up road remains unrepaired and yet to be asphalted.

FLOODY MESS AGAIN

The Sai Layout area in Horamavu ward is increasingly vulnerable to flooding as its drainage system functions like an open drain, leading to severe waterlogging during heavy rainfall. Roads in the settlement were badly affected by the downpour on Saturday night, raising concerns about worsening conditions in the upcoming monsoon season.

A major cause of the flooding is the prolonged delay in widening the railway vent underpass, a crucial drainage channel beneath the railway tracks that carries the Rajakaluve (stormwater drain) through Sai Layout. Years of neglect and the inadequate size of this vent have resulted in water accumulation in the low-lying parts of the neighbourhood.

Around three years ago, the state government sanctioned ₹14 crore for flood control measures in the area. However, the funds have been used in a fragmented manner by the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) and BDA (Bengaluru Development Authority), with little visible progress on completing the drainage infrastructure.

Addressing the issue, Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao assured that permanent solutions are underway. "Following the heavy rains, officials remained in the field till 1 am to monitor and resolve issues on the ground," he said.

Pre-monsoon storm lashes state

Heavy pre-monsoon rains have been lashing Bengaluru and several other districts in Karnataka for the past three to four days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a rain alert for the next four days across 23 districts, including Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Tumkur, and Mysuru. Moderate to heavy rainfall, accompanied by thundershowers and strong winds reaching speeds of 50-60 kmph, is expected in these regions. Widespread rainfall, lightning, and thunder are likely to persist over the next seven days.

Woman cries wolf: Police dig up complaint hoax

Robbery complaint against man impersonating cop is found fabricated; Bengaluru Police continue cracking down on false FIRs amid rising cases

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A woman who alleged that she was robbed by a man impersonating a police officer has now come under scrutiny after police investigations revealed discrepancies in her statement. Authorities have confirmed that the complaint appears to be false and was likely filed due to personal reasons.

The complainant, a beautician originally from Shivamogga and currently residing in MS Palya, had filed the report alleging she was robbed in the early hours of May 14. According to her statement, she was travelling from Shivamogga with ₹2.5 lakh in cash and a gold bracelet, intending to start a beauty parlor in Bengaluru.

As per the complaint, the woman boarded a KSRTC bus from Shivamogga on May 13 at 6 pm and arrived at 8th Mile on Tumkur Road around 1.30 am. While charging her phone near a hospital, she claimed she was approached by a man in a police jeep. The man, allegedly wearing a khaki uniform and a name tag reading "Girijesh" in Kannada, asked her to get into the vehicle. Fearing for her safety, she complied.

She claimed the man stopped near the Nelamangala police station, checked her belongings, and stole the ₹2.5 lakh and her gold bracelet. She said she managed to escape and then lodged a formal complaint with the police.

However, police officials have since clarified that their investigation suggests the complaint was fabricated. "The police officer named in the complaint does exist. Preliminary findings suggest that the woman filed the complaint due to a personal issue," a senior police official told BM. "We will initiate appropriate legal action against her once the investigation is complete," the official added.

In five years, Bengaluru Police filed atleast six cases over false complaints

Fabricated FIRs

The police have been actively working to tackle the problem of fabricated FIRs in recent years.

Over the past five years, Bengaluru Police have registered at least six cases against individuals for filing false complaints. Of these, four progressed to the charge sheet stage, and two resulted in convictions. In one notable case, a man was fined ₹500 for lodging a fake assault complaint, while another faced a ₹100 penalty for falsely reporting a vehicle theft to claim insurance. In cases where fines are unpaid, individuals may face up to five days in jail.

> **"The police officer named in the complaint does not exist. We will initiate appropriate legal action against her once the investigation is complete**
>
> –Police official

Between 2014 and 2016, Bengaluru Police identified 151 out of 2,190 molestation complaints as false. These were often driven by personal rivalries, job-related issues, or family disputes. Many complainants withdrew their cases when asked to provide formal statements under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Cabinet reshuffle talks resume

As the Congress government in Karnataka, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, gears up to celebrate the completion of its second year in office on May 20, talks of a long-pending cabinet reshuffle have resurfaced within party circles.

The reshuffle discussions had taken a backseat following the tabling of the caste census report in the Cabinet and the series of political developments that followed. However, with the government entering its third year later this month, internal conversations about a possible rejig in the council of ministers have once again gained momentum.

Cabinet aspirants re-energised

Sources said that with the government nearing the halfway mark of its term, ministerial aspirants within the party have become active again, hoping for an opportunity in the impending reshuffle. Senior legislators, especially those who have won five or six times, are reportedly lobbying hard, citing their experience, loyalty, and contribution to the party's success. There is speculation that the party high command may consider giving precedence to loyalists and senior leaders.

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Friday declined to comment on the statements made by Muniyappa and Ramalinga Reddy. "The party has 138 MLAs. It's not possible to make everyone a minister. Ultimately, the decision lies with the high command and the Chief Minister," he said.

BBMP officer suspended over scam

Dr P Kalpana, Deputy Health Officer of BBMP's South Zone, has been suspended for her alleged involvement in a massive irregularity concerning the payment of pending bills to contractors supplying food to Indira Canteens. The scam came to light during the settlement of bills submitted by a catering service which supplies food to canteens in the South Zone. Dr Kalpana is accused of authorising payments without proper verification of the actual dues.

According to official sources, Dr Kalpana approved a payment of ₹9.72 crore, even though the actual outstanding bill was only ₹2.27 crore. This has led to a discrepancy of over ₹7 crore, which the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has deemed a serious dereliction of duty. In response, the BBMP Special Commissioner (Administration) has issued suspension orders against Dr Kalpana, pending a detailed inquiry into the financial misconduct. The case adds to the growing list of controversies surrounding the management of Indira Canteens, which were launched to provide subsidised meals to the urban poor.

Talewadi relocation under scanner after complaint

Forest Chief orders new inquiry into village relocation following villager's complaint about procedural lapses and lack of consent; Forest Minister confirms 27 families have voluntarily agreed to relocate

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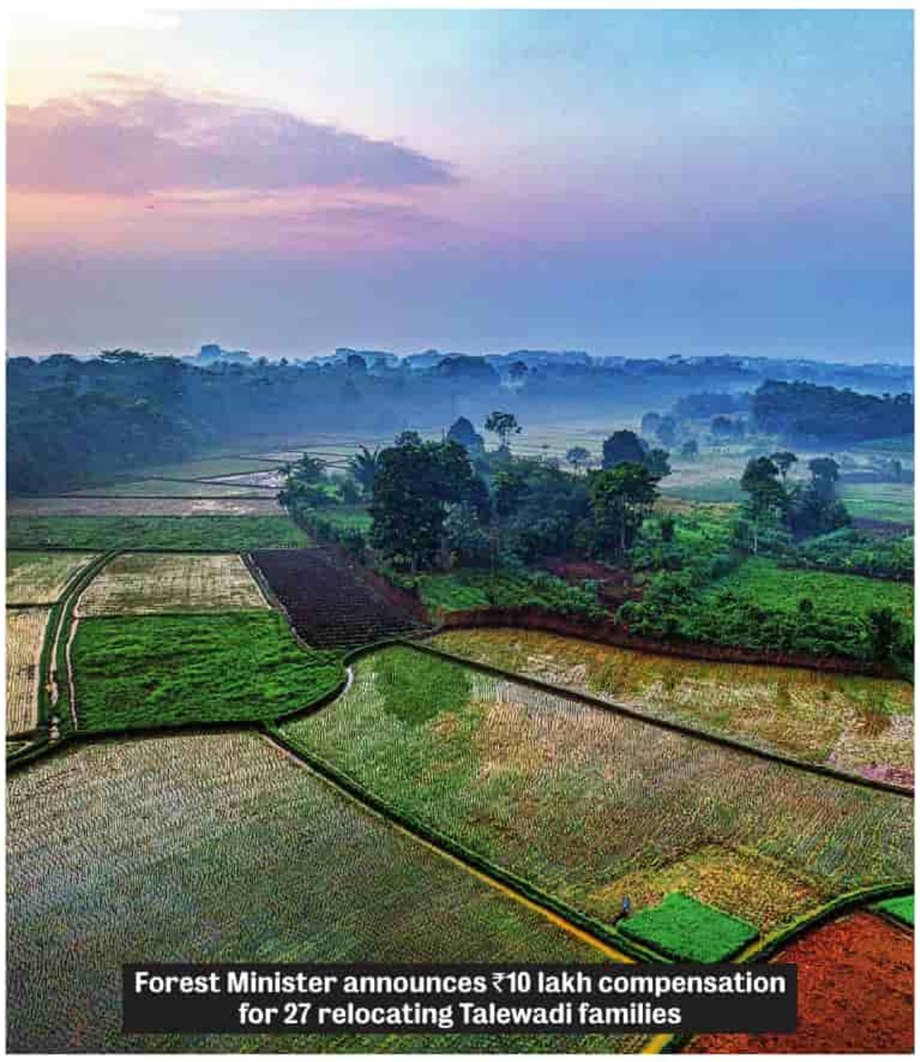
In a letter written to the Deputy Conservator of Forest, Belagavi, the Head of Forest Force of Karnataka has issued directions for a fresh report on the ongoing relocation and rehabilitation of villagers from Talewadi village of Bhimgad wildlife sanctuary. Instructions have been issued after a complaint was raised by a villager regarding the process.

In the letter dated April 15, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden of the Karnataka Forest Department have instructed the local administration to verify the points mentioned by the complainant and file a fresh report on the ongoing process. Notably, a complaint against the ongoing relocation and rehabilitation process was filed by Raghavendra, a resident of the area. The written complaint dated March 27, 2025, was sent to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Chief Secretary to the state Government, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. In the letter, the complainant requested the officials and political leaders to issue directions to the State government to call off the relocation and rehabilitation program in Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka.

According to the complaint, the relocation of villagers is being conducted without obtaining consent from the Gram Sabha of the local Gram Panchayat, which is a violation of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, the Forest Rights Act of 2006, as well as guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). Raghavendra, in his complaint, has also underlined lapses in the functioning of the District Level Committee that was formulated to oversee the program.


Forest Minister announces ₹10 lakh compensation for 27 relocating Talewadi families

Formed through a government order in 2020, the District Level Committee was established by the State Government under the chairmanship of the District Collector to oversee the relocation process of tribal and other families. The committee also includes the Director or Joint Director of the Social Welfare Department, an officer from the Tribal Welfare Department, the Deputy Director of Land Records, the District Registrar as members, and the Deputy Conservator of Forests as member secretary.

However, the letter alleges that key departments were absent from crucial meetings regarding the relocation process. In the first meeting held in August 2024, representatives from the Social Welfare Department, Tribal Welfare Department, Land Records, and District Registrar were not present. The second meeting also lacked representation from the Social Welfare Department and the District Registrar.

"RTI response received from the public information officer has revealed that the District Level Committee, constituted by the Government of Karnataka, is not functioning optimally in monitoring the relocation of forest dwellers. The response indicates that the District Level Committee, headed by the District Collector, Belagavi District, has been operating without fair representation from various departments," he stated in his complaint.

The complaint states that villagers are being relocated without Gram Sabha consent, violating forest and wildlife laws, including NTCA guidelines

Despite the instructions issued by the CWW (Centre for Wildlife Welfare) and APCCF (Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests) (Wildlife) still under implementation, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khnadre visited the village on Thursday and stated that 27 families from Talewadi village have voluntarily agreed to relocate due to the fear of wild animals. He also announced that as an incentive for relocation, a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each will be distributed to the families on May 17 under the first phase. Following this and an assessment by KFD officials, the rest of the compensation (Rs 5 lakh) will also be distributed.

K'taka transfers Kumki elephants to Andhra Pradesh

In a gesture aimed at strengthening cordial relations with neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and resolving the growing issue of elephant-human conflict along the border, the Karnataka government will hand over trained "Kumki" elephants to Andhra Pradesh on May 21, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre announced. The official handover ceremony will be held on the steps of the Vidhana Soudha, where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will formally present the trained elephants to Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Forest Minister Pawan Kalyan.

Minister Khandre explained that this transfer is part of an interstate agreement made during the International Conference on Human-Elephant Conflict held in Bengaluru in August last year. The agreement focuses on exchanging best practices among Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala to address elephant-related issues. Khandre recalled that Pawan Kalyan had visited Bengaluru on August 8, 2023, and had requested the Karnataka government to provide Kumki elephants to help capture rogue elephants in Andhra Pradesh. He had also sought training for mahouts and forest personnel in handling elephant capture operations. Following this, a delegation led by Minister Khandre visited Vijayawada on September 27, during which both states signed a mutual understanding agreement. The May 21 handover marks the implementation of that agreement. — BMB

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Surprise birthday at 35,000 ft

Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda turned 92. While flying back from Delhi to Bengaluru with his family, the veteran leader got a sky-high surprise courtesy of the Air India cabin crew. Cruising at around 35,000 feet on the flight, the crew suddenly whipped out a birthday cake, sang a jubilant tune, and showered Deve Gowda with warm wishes mid-air. The airline even shared a heartfelt message, calling it "a joyous occasion" for their team to celebrate such a momentous day aboard. Deve Gowda took to social media (on his 'X' account) to express gratitude, applauding the staff for their thoughtful gesture and heartfelt care.

Political 'compromise'

During a recent programme, Union Minister of State for Railways Jalashakti V Somanna caught everyone off guard by saying, "I've compromised with Siddaramaiah." He explained, "People don't ask about Modi Ji's money, they only ask about development. That's why I said I compromised with Siddaramaiah." Somanna clarified that the compromise wasn't about money but focusing on the project itself. This unexpected remark came right after Somanna inspected railway development work, leaving many curious!

'Greater or Quarter'

Opposition leader R Ashoka didn't hold back his sarcasm on the Congress government, claiming that instead of building a "Greater Bengaluru," they've turned it into a mere "Quarter Bengaluru". Chatting with reporters, Ashoka quipped that while Kempegowda built one united Bengaluru, the Congress government chopped it up into three parts. Result? Development is stuck in traffic! He pointed out that people in 110 villages now face heavier taxes, hinting this was just a scheme to inflate land prices. "It's outright betrayal of Kempegowda's dreams!" he bellowed. "If the CM says he can't even attend municipal meetings, how on earth will he be made chairman of the Greater Bengaluru Authority? We're ready for a legal battle against this Greater Bengaluru nonsense," Ashok declared. Reacting to this, DyCM DK Shivakumar responded, "They should have opposed it when the bill was introduced. Why did they support it in the Assembly if they were against it? Now they talk about 'Quarter Bengaluru' and 'Full Bengaluru'.

Nature, safari & an African Lion!

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar celebrated his birthday in style — immersed in nature! For two days, he stayed at a private resort by the Kabini backwaters near N Belathur village in the taluk. On his Facebook, he called it a "special birthday spent in the lap of nature, soaking in Kabini's beauty and wildlife, feeling at peace with the world." In honour of his birthday, the local Youth Congress adopted an African lion at Mysore Zoo for a year, led by Youth Congress chief Manjunath Gowda. The adoption costs ₹2 lakh annually, with renewal planned every year.

Flouting protocol

In a surprising twist at a railway event in Kushtagi recently, protocol went out the window—literally. Minister Shivraj Tangadagi didn't hold back during his speech, calling out officials for the lack of a proper invite. "We weren't cordially invited; only a last-minute phone call came yesterday evening. How does that work?" he exclaimed, clearly ruffled. MLA Basavaraj Rayareddi, who also spoke, slammed the officials for their breach of basic courtesy, expressing sharp disappointment. "Do these railway folks have zero common sense? I've been an MLA since 1985—what did they think of me? Twice, Minister Somanna had to call me. But no proper invitation from the railway officials. The General Manager should have been present—where was he?" he questioned. Later, Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna stepped in to smooth things over, urging Minister Tangadagi to forgive the protocol slip and reminding everyone, "This is a public welfare program, so let's follow the rules and move forward." — Sridhar Vivan

BM SIMPLY PUT

Today we issue a crucial guide for parents ahead of school admissions

School of thought

As we approach the school admission season, it is essential for parents to stay vigilant and informed about the legalities of school admissions. There has been an increasing number of unauthorized schools operating in the state, which could have serious implications on your child's academic future. Here's a detailed guide on how you can protect your child's education by ensuring that the school you're considering meets all necessary legal requirements.

School Recognition: Verify Legitimacy

Before enrolling your child, it is crucial to verify that the school is officially recognized. Start by checking the State Achievement Tracking System (SATS) portal, where the school should be registered. Additionally, you should request the Government Registration Certificate, as required by the Karnataka Education Act. Every school must possess this valid registration, so do not hesitate to ask for this important document to ensure the school's legitimacy.

Avoid Unauthorised Schools

There are specific rules that every school must follow. Schools operating without proper registration or outside the permissible framework are illegal:
Nursery/Pre-Primary Schools: Schools operating without registration under ED 709 PGC 2018 are unauthorized and should be avoided.
Franchise Models: Schools that are part of franchise systems, using the same name at multiple locations but without separate registrations, are not permitted to function.
Shifting Schools: If a school shifts its premises, it must obtain fresh permission from the relevant authorities to operate at the new location.

Ensure Board Affiliation

If the school claims affiliation with a specific board, such as CBSE, ICSE, or others, it is important to verify this by requesting an official affiliation certificate. The school must provide valid documentation from the claimed board to substantiate its affiliation. Additionally, ensure that the school has obtained approval from the state government to operate classes 1-8. Only classes 9-10 fall under the control of board exams, but this is contingent on the school adhering to all relevant guidelines.

Multiple Board Operations Are Illegal

It is important to note that a school can operate only one board under a single permission. Schools that offer multiple board systems under one roof are operating illegally and should be reported.

Fee Transparency: Ensure Fair Practices

While schools have the right to set fees according to the facilities they offer, it is essential that their fee structures remain transparent and fair. The fee structure must be clearly displayed on the school's notice board for easy access and reference. Additionally, any unjustified or steep fee increases are not permitted. If you notice unreasonable hikes in the fees, you have the right to file a formal complaint, ensuring that schools adhere to fair practices.

How to File a Complaint:

First, address the issue with the School's Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). If unresolved, escalate the issue to the Block Education Officer or District Education Officer.

Beware of 'Dummy Schools' and Non-Schooling Models

Schools that provide fake attendance or operate under multiple board names to deceive parents are illegal. These "dummy schools" are punishable under law. Avoid admitting your child to such institutions as they can severely affect their academic progress and credibility.

Age Consideration for Admission

To ensure proper grade placement, it is essential to adhere to the minimum age requirements for admission. For Montessori, the minimum age is 3 years with no relaxation allowed. For LKG, the child must be at least 4 years old, and for UKG, the minimum age is 5 years. Additionally, for 1st Standard, the minimum age requirement is 5.5 years for the academic year 2025-26, which is subject to the outcome of the Writ Petition as per the latest court order.

Why It Matters: Protecting Your Child's Future

KAMS General Secretary D Shashi Kumar said, "Admitting your child to an unauthorized school can significantly hinder their academic journey. Not only could it lead to legal complications, but it could also affect the quality of education and future opportunities. Parents must be proactive in gathering documentation and asking the right questions to ensure that the school meets all legal and educational standards. Protect your child's future by staying informed and making responsible choices during this critical phase."

MLA wants State to step in and stop wheelies

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The traffic police have been cracking down on wheeling in the city, but the menace continues to haunt pedestrians, especially senior citizens, and motorists. Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar wrote a letter to Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on May 14, appealing the government to enact a law to curb wheeling in the city.

Suresh Kumar, in the letter, stated how the High Court had expressed serious concerns on the lack of specific legal provisions to tackle the menace of wheeling. Justice V Shrishananda, while hearing a bail plea on May 13, said that the existing laws fail to deter such dangerous stunts. "Prominent citizens have also expressed concern about the danger of wheeling. Innocent people are becoming victims. Those who indulge in wheeling have no fear of law. I have taken pictures of people wheeling and sent them to the police to take legal action against such miscreants. I want you to instruct the authorities to amend the existing laws," the letter from Suresh Kumar read.

A copy of the letter written by Suresh Kumar

It is said that reckless wheeling has been endangering motorists and pedestrians across residential streets, Inner and Outer Ring Roads, and NICE Road. "The residents have been suffering a lot due to noise pollution in residential areas. Though wheeling incidents have come down during the day, there is no one to nab the miscreants. I want the police to keep a vigil on those indulging in wheeling at night," said Habiba Subhan, a resident of Fraser Town.

Shobha Bhat, a resident of Health Layout, urged the police to take action against wheeling, emphasising that it endangers both pedestrians and the riders themselves who engage in these risky stunts. "I have noticed some miscreants indulging in wheeling in our locality. I want the authorities to punish those practicing such dangerous stunts on the road," said Bhat.

Welcoming the High Court's concern, Sampath Kumar, a resident of Cambridge Layout, called wheeling a nuisance and said that he has seen youths indulging in the reckless act on Cambridge Road. "It not only disturbs pedestrians and other motorists, but also poses danger to hapless pedestrians, especially senior citizens. I appeal to the authorities concerned to ensure no wheeling on the city roads," said Kumar.

Lab has all equipment, only some samples yet to be collected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Department is currently dependent on the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad, the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun, and the Tamil Nadu Forest Department for analysis of samples. Those analyses that require quick results are being sent to the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals (IAH&VB) in Hebbal and the local forensic lab.

Wildlife activists and experts say the forest department must ensure that the wildlife forensic sciences laboratory in Bengaluru is functional sooner rather than later.

"For any sample analysis to be done locally, the department is dependent on labs associated with institutes and organisations that conduct these analyses pro bono. Thus, a report that can arrive in 48 hours takes months.

The department is also struggling with thousands of wildlife offense cases, many of which could have received their logical end given an in-house wildlife forensic laboratory. The lab in Madiwala should be fully equipped and functional as soon as possible," said a wildlife conservationist.

As of December 2024, more than 4,000 wildlife offence cases are pending in Karnataka.

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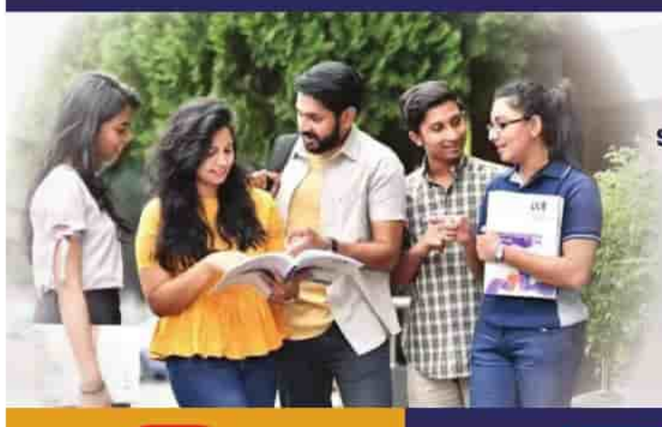
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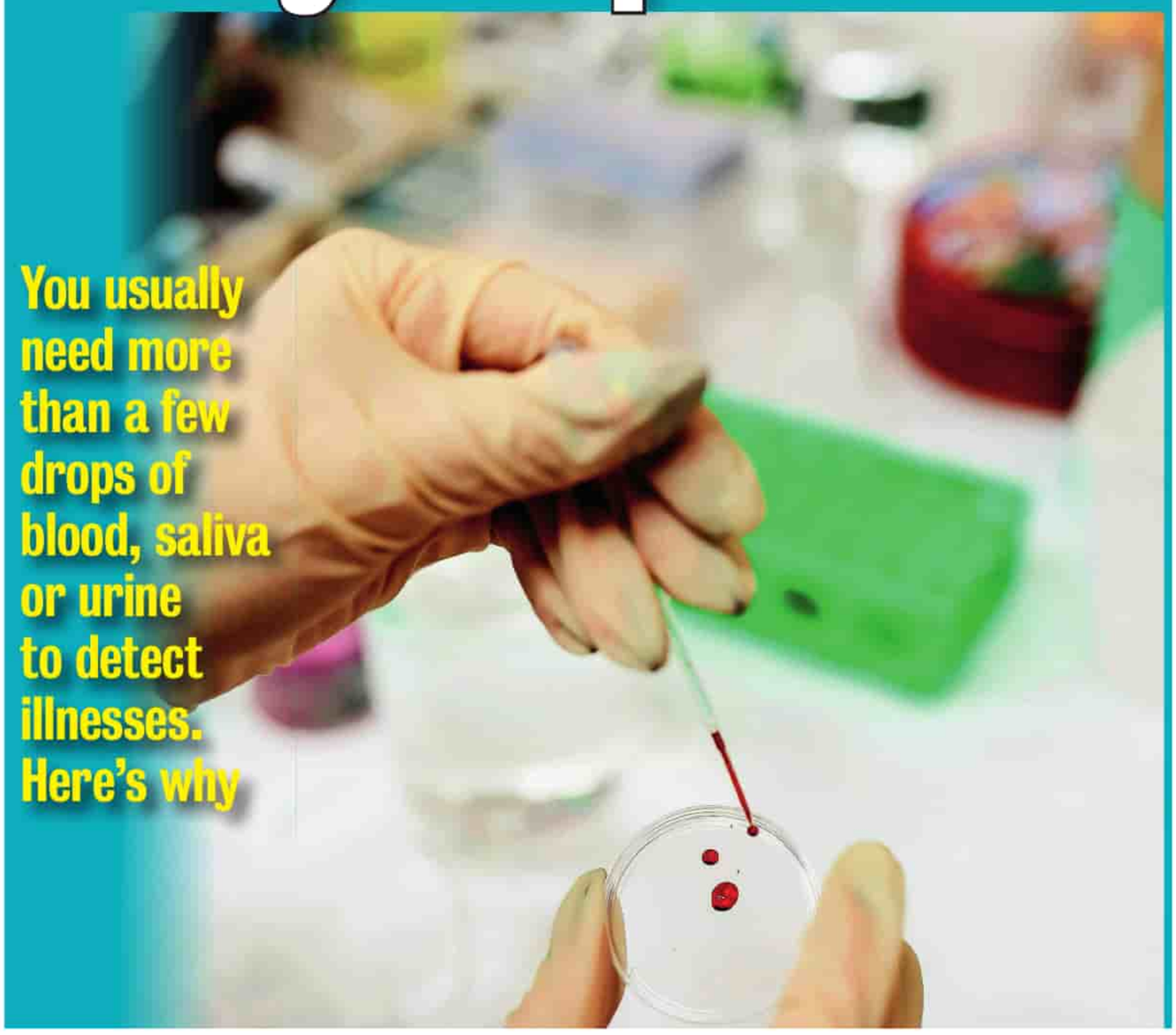


You usually need more than a few drops of blood, saliva or urine to detect illnesses. Here's why

In the 2000s, biotech company Theranos promised to revolutionise blood testing. Founder Elizabeth Holmes claimed Theranos technology could perform hundreds of tests using just a finger-prick drop of blood. If true, their diagnostics would be faster, cheaper and more accessible.

Theranos raised hundreds of millions of dollars from investors and was valued at more than USD 9 billion in 2015.

However, the technology never worked, leading to one of the biggest scandals in biotech history. Theranos was secretly using traditional machines to run many tests, then claiming the results came from its own (non-functional) device. Holmes was eventually convicted of fraud and sentenced to 11 years in prison.

Today, a new startup, Haemanthus, claims to have developed a similar technology. Co-founded by Billy Evans (Holmes' partner), this new company says it can detect and diagnose illnesses using tiny amounts of blood, urine, or even saliva.

While technology has advanced since Theranos' time, it's important to consider these claims carefully.

Clinicians and lab techs can currently detect many conditions with blood, and some with urine or saliva. These are important tools in modern medicine. However, the volumes required are usually much greater than a few drops or a dab.

What can blood detect?

Blood circulates through all organs, transporting cells, nutrients, hormones and waste products. Blood tests collect several millilitres of blood from a vein and send this to a laboratory for analysis.

Blood tests can check if a person has signs of infection or disease, to monitor organ function, or to show how a person is responding to medical treatment. Blood tests are widely used to monitor heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, or deficiencies in iron or vitamins.

> **Clinicians can detect many conditions with blood, and some with urine or saliva. The volumes required are usually much greater than a dab**

A significant proportion of medical decisions are based on laboratory analysis of blood tests. Making them more affordable and accessible would have great benefits.

What about urine?

Urine is produced by the kidneys and contains waste filtered from the blood. The colour and composition of urine gives you a snapshot of any problems the body might be trying to fix.

Urine analysis can detect urinary tract infections, kidney disorders, diabetes and liver diseases by measuring sugars, proteins and cells.

As urine tests are non-invasive and easy to administer, they can be used to quickly screen for some conditions.

However, factors such as how much you've had to drink and what you've eaten can influence urine composition, potentially affecting test results.

Saliva can also be used for diagnoses

Saliva is the clear, watery liquid produced by salivary glands in the mouth. It's mostly water (around 99 per cent), but also contains various substances such as hormones, antibodies, enzymes, DNA, RNA and metabolites.

Saliva testing is already used in clinical settings to detect HIV antibodies, monitor levels of cortisol (a marker of stress) and to diagnose viral infections such as COVID.

The potential of saliva as another non-invasive diagnostic tool is growing, especially as researchers identify more markers of disease that it can contain.

However, saliva production varies between individuals. The composition of saliva can be impacted by what you eat and drink, the time of day, or even stress. These variations can limit how consistent and reliable saliva can be for making a diagnosis.

But how much of it do you need?

While diagnosing diseases using bodily fluids isn't new, Haemanthus and other startups differentiate themselves by aiming (and claiming) to need only small amounts for multiple tests: a drop of blood, a swab of saliva, or a few milliliters of urine. This would mean faster, cheaper, more convenient tests that cause less discomfort.

But there are physical limitations of small samples. Many diagnostic markers (called biomarkers) are only present in very low amounts in our body fluids.

When the sample amount decreases, so do the amounts of the biomarkers, making it harder to detect them reliably. This is particularly true for biomarkers such as hormones, cancer markers, or early-stage disease indicators.

What can you detect with a few drops?

Of course, some conditions can be diagnosed using small samples, but generally only one condition is tested for with each small sample, unlike the claims of companies like Theranos.

Finger-prick blood samples, for example, can monitor blood glucose levels of people with diabetes.

Small urine samples can detect urinary tract infections, but not all types of infections at once.

The specific biomarkers for these conditions can be reliably detectable in small amounts of fluid.

To diagnose more complex conditions, or even unknown conditions, multiple tests may be required, each needing different sample preparations. This requires both volume and precision – two things tests with small sample volumes struggle to deliver.

What happens next?

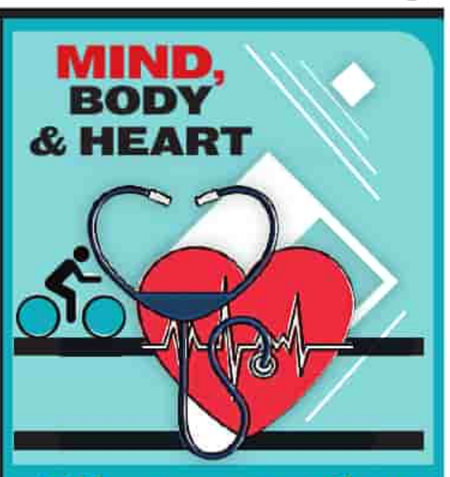
While the idea of diagnosing illnesses with small fluid samples is promising, especially for remote or resource-limited settings, the science suggests we should be cautious.

Most human diseases are complicated, and we usually need comprehensive testing approaches to diagnose them. Relying only on small fluid samples could lead to misdiagnosis, delayed treatments, or unnecessary interventions.

Innovations in biosensor technology, machine learning algorithms and biomarker discovery continue to advance the field. And one day, fast and reliable small volume testing may be possible.

However, a lot more peer-reviewed research and regulatory approvals will be essential to ensure patient safety and diagnostic accuracy.

(By Amali Cooray, John (Eddie) La Marca and Sarah Diepstraten, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Obstructive sleep apnea

Climate change effect

A new large study on Sunday claimed that rising temperatures increase the severity of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).

Published at the 'ATS 2025 International Conference,' the study also found that, under the most likely climate change scenarios, the societal burden of OSA is expected to double in most countries over the next 75 years.

Develop strategies

In addition to highlighting the critical importance of limiting global warming, the findings also emphasise the immediate need for strategies to alleviate the health and economic impacts of OSA as it becomes more common and severe, researchers said.

"This study really highlights the societal burden associated with the increase in OSA prevalence due to rising temperatures," said Bastien Lechat, a senior research fellow at FHMRI: Sleep Health at Flinders University.

Previous cross-sectional studies identified a link between ambient temperature and OSA severity. However, this is the first to explain and describe that connection in detail.

Analysis

For the study, researchers analysed a consumer database of more than 116,000 worldwide users of an under-mattress sensor validated to estimate OSA severity.

The dataset included around 500 repeat measurements per user. Researchers then analysed this data against 24-hour ambient temperatures extracted from climate models.

Overall, higher temperatures were associated with a 45 per cent increased likelihood of a sleeper experiencing OSA on a given night.

2 Degree C rise

They found that any scenario that involved temperatures rising 2 degrees Celsius or higher would result in a 1.5-fold to 3-fold increase to the OSA burden by the year 2100.

– IANS

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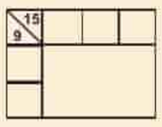
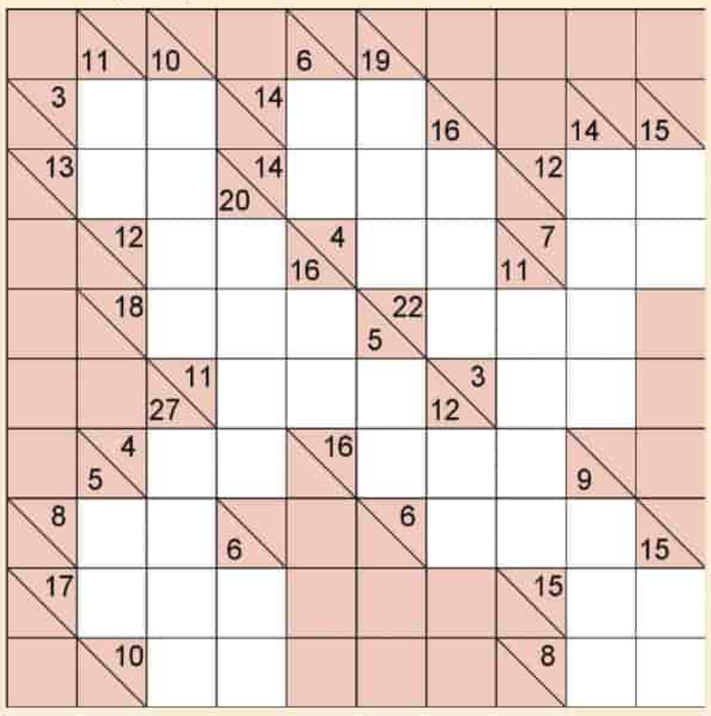
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

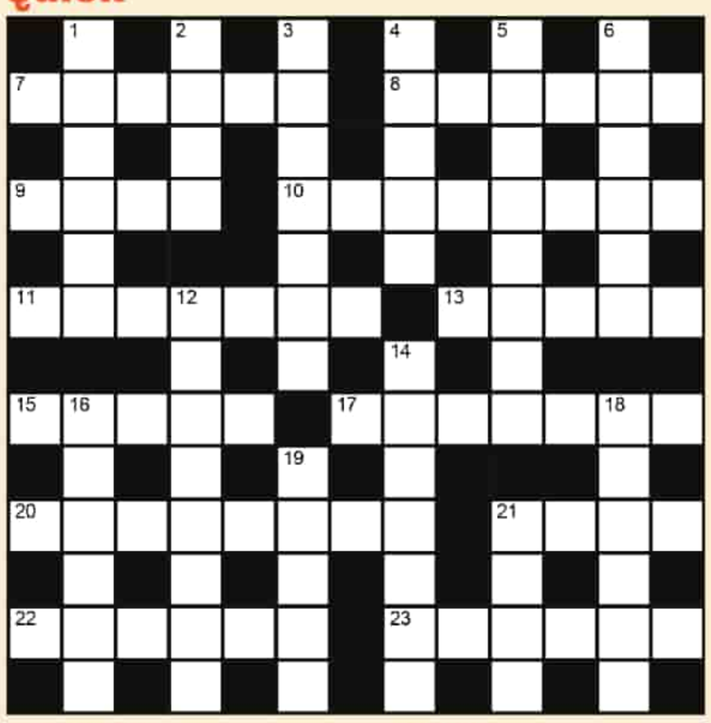
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Stark ___ mad : completely mad? (6)
8 Male bees (6)
9 Nervy (4)
10 Use drugs to excess (8)
11 Chafing, causing friction (7)
13 Metallic-sounding (5)
15 Detest (5)
17 Thief or robber (7)
20 Pig-headed (8)
21 Cry (4)
22 Great desert (6)
23 Tidily and properly (6)

DOWN

1 Horse-drawn carriage (6)
2 Cunning (4)
3 Stranded-not at sea? (7)
4 A snake (5)
5 Drawing or sketching absent-mindedly (8)
6 ___ Button: 2009 F1 World Champion (6)
12 Boss around (8)
14 ___ down : belittling? (7)
16 Bruce Wayne's alter ego (6)
18 Whenever one wishes ? (2,4)
19 R in RCB (5)
21 Tolerate (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS T

PDH GHFG ZFS CMYRARH FC IFYP UQ PDH VARHC UQ PDUCH PDFP CPAVV VARH.

Linemaro

You are in the wrong place – the Miss Universe contest is over there

Mindchow

The world is empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers and trees; but to know someone who thinks and feels with us...makes it an inhabited garden

Joke of the day

A husband is what is left of the lover after the nerve has been extracted

Loop

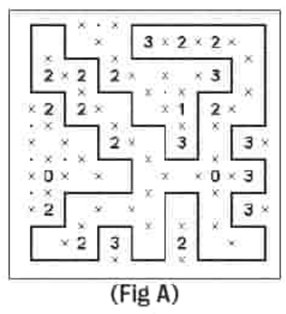
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

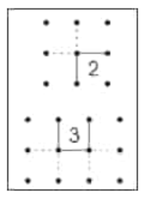
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

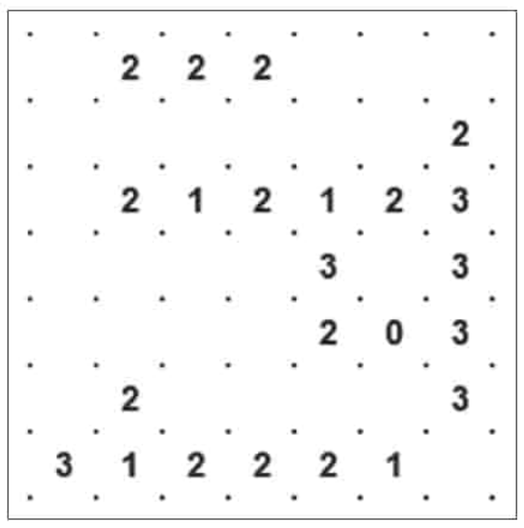
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



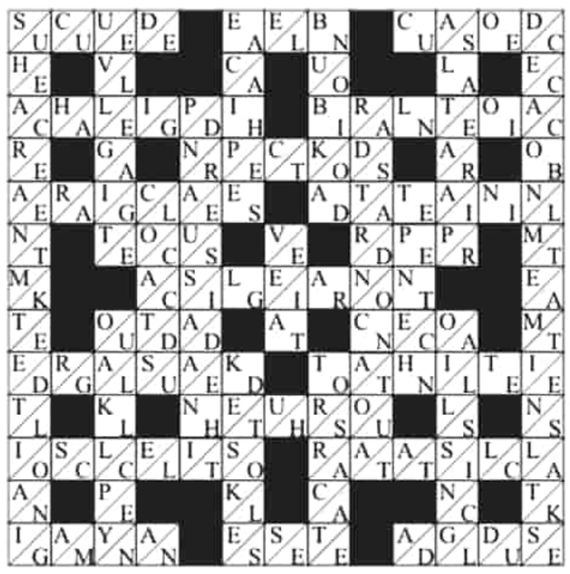
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



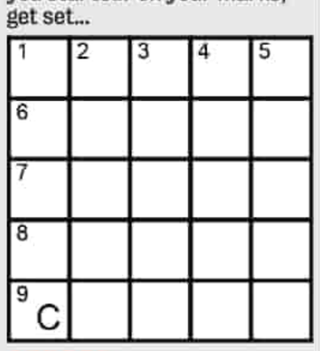
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Co rig; 6 Verso; 7 Lal Co; 8 Lamia; 9 A copy

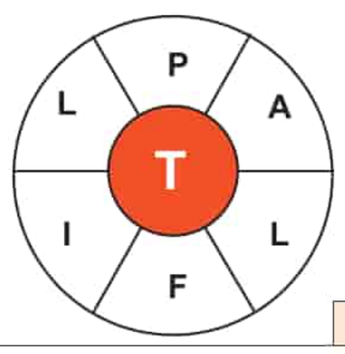
DOWN

1 C coil; 2 OO Vol; 3 Caper; 4 Rag ma; 5 Lay is

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		2	1		6	7		
7	8						2	9
9			7		2			5
2								6
		5	3		9	8		
8								1
6			8		4			7
4	2						5	3
		9	2		1	4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14

4 7 8 9

Medium = 7

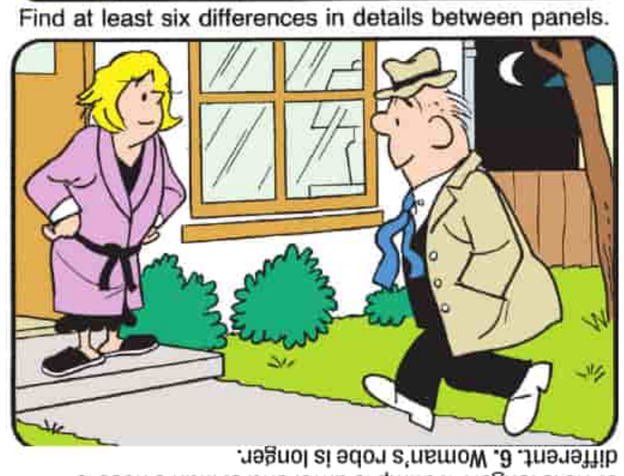
2 2 3 9

Hard = 30

5 8 8 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



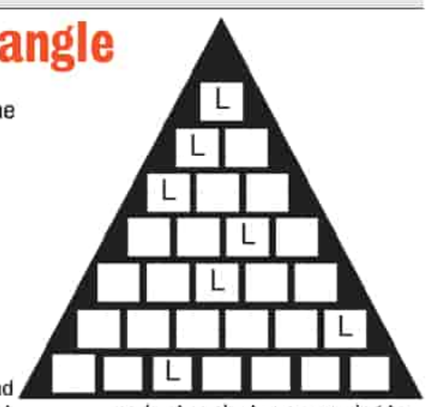
Differences: 1. Bush is moved. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Tile is longer. 4. Lamp is different. 5. Man's nose is different. 6. Woman's robe is longer.

Riddler

At a party of thirty-five people there are twice as many women as children and twice as many children as men. How many of each are there?

Alpha triangle

1 Learner's plate
2 51 in ancient Rome
3 Cover
4 Inactive
5 Made angry
6 Nonsense
7 Hand over



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

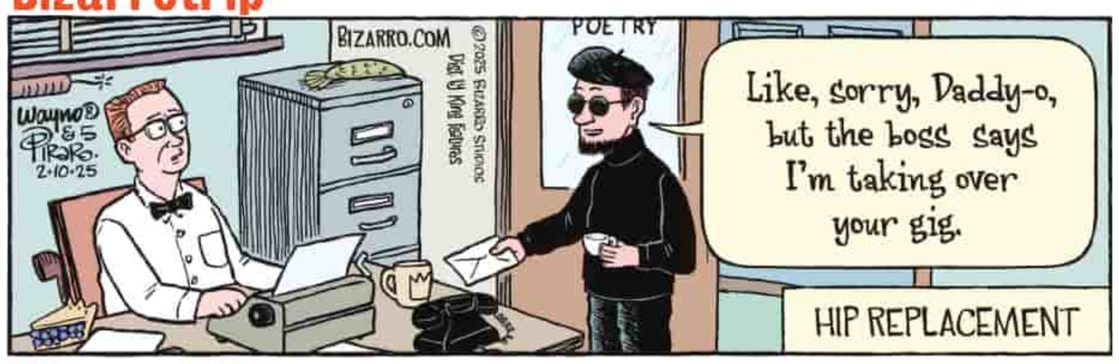
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

YER PILL AIN'T WORKIN'! I STILL HAS A HEADACHE!
HM! IT'S A BIT SLOWER THAN I FIGURED!
DON'T WORRY! YOUR PAIN WILL DISAPPEAR!
IT WILL FADE AWAY!
GOOD HEAVENS! HE'S DISAPPEARING!
popeye.com
8-21

Bizarrotrip

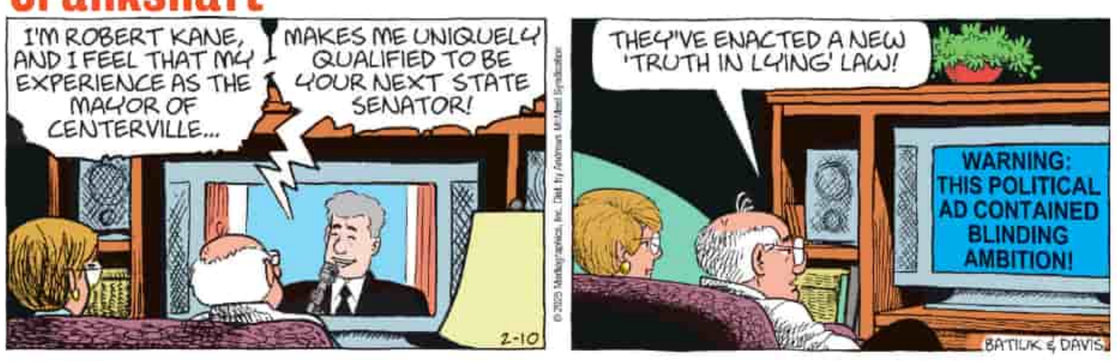


Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

ADDY, DID YOU FILE THE REPORTS FOR THE RECENT ACQUISITIONS?
OH, NO... IF I SAY YES, WHAT IF HE ASKS ME FOR THEM? AND IF I SAY NO, WHAT IF I GET MY MOM IN TROUBLE WITH HER BOSS?!
HAHA, WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW?
YOU'RE SO FUNNY, ADDY!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


I'M ROBERT KANE, AND I FEEL THAT MY EXPERIENCE AS THE MAYOR OF CENTERVILLE...
MAKES ME UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO BE YOUR NEXT STATE SENATOR!
2-10
THEY'VE ENACTED A NEW 'TRUTH IN LYING' LAW!
WARNING: THIS POLITICAL AD CONTAINED BLINDING AMBITION!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, be mindful of your words, as careless speech may cause misunderstandings. Stay cautious of hidden enemies and potential conspiracies. Avoid risky investments and lending money, as recovery may be difficult. To reduce stress and stay centred, consider practising meditation or yoga.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Negative thoughts may cloud your judgment today. Impatience and arrogance can hinder decision-making. Seek blessings or guidance from elders, which can help you move forward professionally. Refrain from investing in stagnant or unproductive assets. Lovebirds should steer clear of bringing up past conflicts.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today favours you over your rivals. Stuck finances may finally be recovered. You'll perform well at work and may receive recognition. It's also a significant day for singles and couples to consider important relationship decisions, such as marriage.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today brings positive energy. Past challenges are easing, allowing you to restart delayed projects. Recognition for your efforts may boost your confidence. Financial gains are likely, particularly for those involved in exports, fashion, or dairy-related industries.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
A sense of fatigue or minor health issues may slow you down today. Mental exhaustion could impact your personal life and delay social commitments. Business losses are possible, so hold off on new ventures. Lovebirds should avoid unnecessary arguments or emotional conflicts.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
The moon's blessings favour you today. You might create effective new business strategies, supported by cooperative colleagues. Recovering long-pending payments may improve your cash flow. However, emotional lows may hit in the evening, potentially affecting your sleep. Try to relax before bedtime.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You're in a strong position to handle rivals and opponents. Legal matters may resolve in your favour. Your hard work will likely be noticed by superiors, possibly leading to new responsibilities or promotions. Singles may find a meaningful romantic connection.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today brings happiness and the desire to enhance your lifestyle. You might invest in creative or luxury items and spend quality time with friends and family. Investments in long-term assets could prove fruitful. Lovebirds can expect joyful moments, and singles might meet a suitable partner.

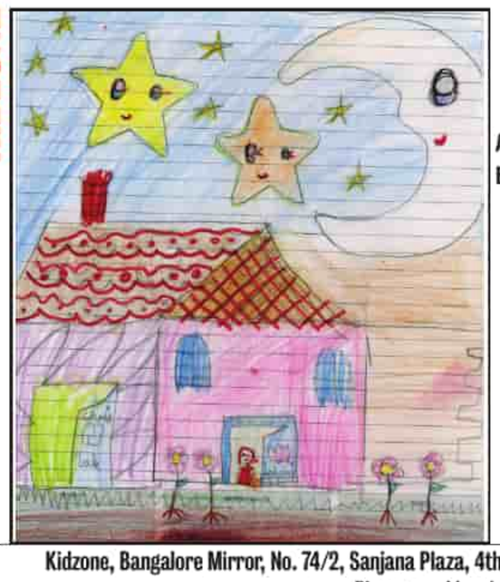
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may seek inner peace today. Despite this, lunar support will help you stay focused. It's best to avoid investments in real estate or high-value assets for now. Positive moments are likely in your domestic life, but watch out for ego clashes with your spouse. Business disputes may get resolved amicably.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your polite and diplomatic approach can help resolve issues. You'll likely manage your finances better, balancing income and expenses. Spending on home improvement or creative projects may bring satisfaction. Financial planning is key to boosting your savings.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Mind your words in family interactions—blunt speech could disturb household harmony. Avoid impulsive spending just to maintain social appearances. Also, take care of your health, particularly issues related to the ears, teeth, or throat

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
It's a good day, with strong vitality and positive energy. You'll enjoy your work and harmonious home life. Business partnerships will be fruitful. Job seekers may find promising opportunities. Lovebirds should avoid conflicts related to pride or self-respect.

KIDZONE



Ananya, Bengaluru

Ashiya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
{7(√(2x2x2x2x3)/((√(5x5x3)+(√(3x3x3x3x 3)))
= {(7 x 4√3) / ((5√3) + (9√3))}
= 28 / (5+9) = 28 / 14 = 2

BULL'S EYE flat, flat, flit, iift, iiit, tiil, PITFALL, plait, tail, tall,

RIDDLER
20 women, 10 children and 5 men. Explanation: To figure it out, let m be the number of men and you get this equation: 4m + 2m + m = 35; 7m = 35; m = 35 ÷ 7; m = 5

FAST FIVE

C	O	R	G	I
O	V	E	R	S
L	O	C	A	L
I	L	A	M	A
C	O	P	A	Y

STRIKE OUT

S	C	U	D	A	L	B	U	S	E	D
E	L	I	P	H	C	U	A	L	T	E
C	A	L	I	P	H	B	A	L	T	I
R	A	R	E	C	K	S	R	R	T	O
E	A	G	L	E	S	A	T	T	A	I
T	E	O	S	V	R	E	P	T	A	N
M	E	D	D	T	N	C	O	M	A	
E	R	A	S	E	D	T	A	H	I	T
T	K	N	E	H	R	U	L	L	N	I
I	S	L	E	T	S	A	T	T	I	L
N	E	K	C	S	A	T	T	I	L	A
G	A	Y	A	S	E	E	A	G	U	E

QUICK

L	W	A	D	J	A	G	R	L	T	N
R	A	V	I	N	G	D	R	O	N	E	S
N	L	R	O	D	O	N	E	S		
E	D	G	Y	O	V	E	R	D	O	S	E
A	O	R	L	O						
R	U	B	B	I	N	G	T	I	N	N	Y
A	B	H	O	R	D	B	U	R	G	L	A	R
A	W	O	R	N	R	E	A	T	L	Y
S	T	U	B	B	O	R	N	B	A	W	L
M	E	Y	I	E						
S	A	H	A	R	A	N	E	A	T	L	Y
T										

MENSA PUZZLE
10. For each circle, add the left and right hand numbers together and put this total in the circle one place to the right.

QUOTE UNCODE
The dead can survive as part of the lives of those that still live.

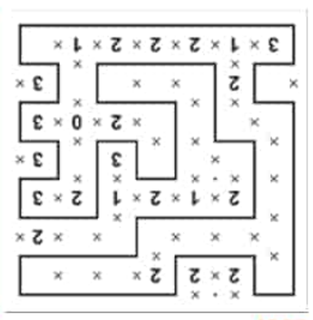
SUDOKU

3	5	2	1	9	6	7	8	4
7	8	1	5	4	3	6	2	9
9	4	6	7	8	2	3	1	5
2	9	7	4	1	8	5	3	6
1	6	5	3	7	9	8	4	2
8	3	4	6	2	5	9	7	1
6	1	3	8	5	4	2	9	7
4	2	8	9	6	7	1	5	3
5	7	9	2	3	1	4	6	8

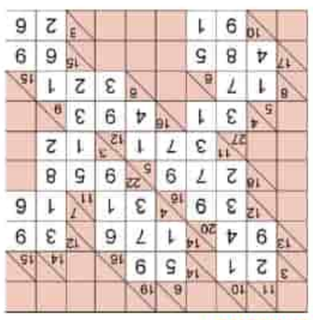
ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, Ll, Lld, Idle, Rlled, Drivel, Deliver.

GO FIGURE
4 + 8 + 9 − 7 = 14
Medium
3 + 2 + 9 \ 2 = 7
Hard
8 − 5 x 8 + 6 = 30
Easy

LOOP



KAKURO



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TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

Jacqueline manages to keep calm as man leans in for selfie

Jacqueline Fernandez was recently caught in an awkward moment during an event in Mumbai. A fan got a little too close while clicking a selfie with her, which led to some a stir on social media.

In a video shared by Instantbollywood on Instagram, Jacqueline can be seen smiling sweetly as a man approaches her for a picture. The actress happily agrees, but the situation quickly turns uncomfortable when the fan leans in too closely, almost touching his face to hers. Even then, Jacqueline kept her calm and posed for the photo without reacting negatively.

But just moments later, her manager quickly stepped in. Sensing the discomfort, she pushed the fan away and firmly asked him to maintain a respectful distance from the star.

'Men need to behave'

The clip sparked immediate reactions online. Many social media users were quick to call out the fan's inappropriate behaviour and praised Jacqueline for staying composed throughout the incident. One user commented, "Jacqueline is so sweet, she was so polite and didn't react to the fan getting close. She seems lovely. Although men really need to behave and not intrude in others' space." Another added, "Jacqueline is so kind so humble."

What's next for Jacqueline?

On the work front, Jacqueline has plenty going on. She recently appeared at the famous Cannes Film Festival 2025, turning heads with her stunning look. She will next be seen in the film 'Housefull 5', a much-awaited comedy with a star-studded cast.

Fans can also catch her in another big project, 'Welcome To The Jungle', which stars Akshay Kumar and others. **–ETimes**

Babil to take some time off

Actor Babil Khan shared a post on social media hinting at the possible exit from the project with filmmaker Sai Rajesh.

The 27-year-old actor was supposed to star in Rajesh's Hindi remake of the film "Baby".

He uploaded a note on his Instagram handle on Saturday claiming "things didn't go ahead as planned due to unfortunate circumstances." "With a lot of grit, passion, and mutual respect, Sai Rajesh sir and I both got along on this journey of creating magic together. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances things didn't go ahead as everyone had planned," the post began.

Khan said he will be "taking some time off."

"Since I will be taking some time off currently, I wish the best to Sai Rajesh sir and the film team on their future journey..." He said they would work something out in the future. **–PTI**

All thanks to director

One of India's most loved actors, Vijay Sethupathi, has recalled with gratitude how director Aarumugakumar, who has now directed his eagerly-awaited upcoming film 'Ace', played a crucial role in ensuring that he got two important film opportunities when he was just starting off as an actor.

Participating in a pre-release press conference called by the unit of 'Ace', actor Vijay Sethupathi said, "When I first went looking for an opportunity in a film, I went to audition for a film called 'Varnam'. My photo had been given to the makers of that film by a manager called Bhoopathy. When I went there, they told me what the scene was and asked me to write my dialogues myself and act. "That was where I realised even I could write dialogues. I bought some hair gel from a shop nearby, applied it on my hair and delivered my lines comfortably as I had written them myself. Director Aarumugakumar was the one who recommended my name to the makers of the film, saying, 'This person's acting is good. Pick him.'

"Aarumugakumar and I did not know each other then. However, he was the one who strongly recommended my name and ensured that I got that opportunity. I am thankful to him for that," he said. **–IANS**

Jennifer on motherhood

Jennifer Lawrence's starrer 'Die, My Love' premiered at the ongoing 78th Cannes Film Festival, where it received a standing ovation from the attendees.

The movie revolves around a new mother descending into madness. At the Cannes press conference, the actress shared her own experience with motherhood and postpartum, reported Variety. "As a mother, it was really hard to separate what I would do as opposed to what she would do. And it was just heartbreaking," Lawrence said of filming the movie as quoted by Variety.

"I had just had my firstborn, and there's not really anything like postpartum. It's extremely isolating, which is so interesting. When Lynne moves this couple into Montana, she doesn't have a community. She doesn't have her people. But the truth is, extreme anxiety and extreme depression is isolating, no matter where you are. You feel like an alien," said Jennifer Lawrence as quoted by Variety.

During the press conference, the actress also revealed that she filmed "Die My Love" while being five months pregnant with her second child.

"Having children changes everything. It changes your whole life. It's brutal and incredible," she said of motherhood. She added, "So not only do they go into every decision of, they've taught me -- I mean, I didn't know that I could feel so much and my job has a lot to do with emotion..." **–ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Better half's support

Debutant actor Raghuram is grateful to his better half Dr Akshatha for helping to realise his dream of becoming an actor by bankrolling Maayaavi.

"I am from Chitradurga. Mayavi is my maiden movie in Sandalwood. My wife has encouraged me to act in this movie. The script narrated by Shankar G was quite interesting. The shooting of the movie is completed. The movie's teaser and a lyrical song were released by Shantaveera Swamiji and Sri Eshwarananda Swamiji. I thank Ambedkar Sene president P Murthy for gracing the function," said Raghuram.

The song – Aavarisu – was sung by Vijay Prakash while Agastya Santosh has scored its music. This song's lyrics are written by Anand Kammasagara.

Shankar G debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. "I have worked as associate director for a few Kannada movies. I thank Raghuram and Dr Akshata for giving me the opportunity to direct this movie. Both of them liked the script when I narrated it to them. Maayaavi is a suspense thriller," said the director.

Nischitha Shetty is paired opposite Raghuram. "I am basically an engineer. This is my third movie in Sandalwood. I began my acting career with the Sri Jagannatha Dasaru that was released in 2021," she said.

Good response

The film College Kalavida joins the list of movies made about college life. Sanjay Malavalli, who has been associated with Sandalwood as a script writer since 2016, debuts as an independent director with this movie.

Sandalwood actor Ramesh Aravind unveiled one of the songs – Singara Neene – and wished the cast and crew good luck. "I thank the producer for giving me the opportunity. I have been associated with Sandalwood for more than eight years. Actor Mandya Ramesh visited our college at Malavalli. He advised me to focus on script writing and directing movies. My college lecturers also encouraged me. I am happy to realise my long-pending dream of becoming a director," said Malavalli. He said the script of the movie is such that all types of audiences can connect with it. "A few real incidents during my college days inspired me to write the script. The movie will arrive in theaters next month," he said.